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THE U.S. AND BRAZIL

ANNCR: SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IS SPENDING THREE DAYS IN BRAZIL DURING HIS CURRENT TOUR OF LATIN-AMERICA. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE REASONS WHY WASHINGTON ATTACHES SUCH IMPORTANCE TO THE ROLE OF BRAZIL:

VOICE: IT IS NOT HARD TO DETERMINE WHY THE UNITED STATES-- AND OTHER COUNTRIES, FOR THAT MATTER-- FIND BRAZIL PLAYING AN INCREASINLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN TODAY'S WORLD. IT IS THE SECOND LARGEST COUNTRY IN POPULATION, IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND IN RECENT YEARS HAS HAD A PHENOMENAL RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. ITS SIZE, PRODUCTIVITY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION ARE OBVIOUSLY FACTORS WHICH WILL AFFECT THE FUTURE NOT ONLY OF SOUTH AMERICA BUT OF THE WHOLE HEMISPHERE. FURTHERMORE, BRAZIL IS BOUND TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN WORLD AFFAIRS. THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUE BECAUSE BRAZIL, AS AN EMERGING COUNTRY, IS IN THE UNIQUE POSITION OF BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS.

FOR THIS REASON, IT IS NOT SURPRISNG THAT THE HIGHLIGHT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO BRAZIL IS THE SIGNING OF A FORMAL AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR REGULAR CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES. THESE CONSULTATIONS WILL COVER NOT ONLY BILATERAL MATTERS-- TRADE, TECHNOLOGY AND POLITICAL ISSUES-- BUT INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AS WELL.

IT IS THIS INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT THAT HAS STRUCK MOST OBSERVERS. IT RECOGNIZES BRAZIL'S ARRIVAL AS A POWER ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, OF SOMEWHAT THE SAME STATUS AS COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA AND JAPAN. IT RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ARRIVAL AT A TIME IN HISTORY WHEN-- AS MR. KISSINGER PUT

IT-- " WE HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF VIGOROUS COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MAJOR NATIONS OF THE WEST IN SHAPING INTERNATIONAL ORDER IN THE ERA BEFORE US." THOSE ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY KISSINGER-- WHO ANNOUNCED THE AGREEMENT THURSDAY-- HAVE ALSO STRESSED THE PRIOR NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS. THEY ARE INTENDED TO FACILITATE COORDINATION OF BRAZILIAN AND UNITED STATES VIEWS ON IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES BEFORE THESE ISSUES COME TO A HEAD.

OBSERVERS HAVE ALSO BEEN STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT THIS IS A CONSULTATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WHO OFTEN DIFFER WITH ONE ANOTHER ON BOTH BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL MATTERS. IN MR. KISSINGER'S VIEW, HOWEVER, THIS ONLY ADDS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT. SUCH AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH IDENTICAL VIEWS WOULD BE MUCH LESS MEANINGFUL.

STUDENTS OF LATIN- AMERICAN AFFAIRS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOME OF BRAZIL'S NEIGHBORS MIGHT BE UNEASY ABOUT THE CONSULTATION ON AGREEMENT-- SEEING I N IT A KIND OF AXIS INTENDED TO DOMINATE HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS. BUT OFFICIAL SOURCES BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER HAVE DISCOUNTED SUCH FEARS. THE AGREEMENT, THEY SAY, WAS NOT INTENDED TO OFFEND ANY OTHER COUNTRY, NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT WASHINGTON ATTACHES ANY LESS IMPORTANCE TO THE OTHER NATIONS OF LATIN-AMERICA. THEIR VIEW IS THAT IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL ARE BOUND TO BENFIT THE WHOLE HEMISPHERE-- AND TO STRENGTHEN THE STABILITY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER.

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